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EDITORIAL

Officially Yours

This issue of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE carries the transcript of the annual meeting of the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association. These proceedings are printed in full, rather than in condensed version, so that every member of the Association may read for himself just what proposals were made and what actions taken by the official policy-making body of the C.M.A.

Several sections of this transcript are of more than ordinary interest to all physicians and study of them is recommended. Among these are the statement of Dr. John W. Cline, a Californian who is now serving as president of the American Medical Association. Dr. Cline condensed into a few minutes the entire philosophy of the American Medical Association as a body devoted to public service. At the same time, he pointed to the role of every physician in representing the medical profession to the public and especially to those bodies and organizations which stand shoulder to shoulder with medicine in fighting for the preservation of the American system of competitive enterprise.

Another address of unusual interest is that of Dr. Dwight H. Murray, legislative chairman of the C.M.A. and of the A.M.A. and now serving as chairman of the A.M.A. Board of Trustees. Dr. Murray, with the able assistance of Mr. Ben H. Read, executive secretary of the Public Health League of California, gave a full account of the legislative activities of the 1951 California State Legislature. Every physician should read this story as a means of orienting himself in the legislative process and the need for legislative representation for medicine.

In a different vein but equally interesting is the address to the House of Delegates by William T.

Bender, son of a physician and a senior medical student at University of California. Mr. Bender, who has been active in organizing a student chapter of the American Medical Association at his school, discussed the attitudes and philosophies of his fellow students and detailed the aims which some of their leaders have in developing active chapters of the Student A.M.A. in the medical schools of the state. His comments were startling and refreshing, and they are decidedly worth reading and heeding.

In addition to these formal presentations, the House of Delegates proceedings carry the discussion on the new Constitution and By-Laws, which will be printed in full in next month's issue. Every member should be familiar with these basic documents which govern his organization. Similarly, every member should familiarize himself with the annual budget as adopted by the House of Delegates. This shows where his money goes and for what purpose.

The California Medical Association is your own organization. Its annual sessions provide the opportunity for the transaction of business and the adoption of official policies. Each year at this time there is a chance for every member to review the official actions of this duly elected official body and to determine whether or not these actions, taken in the democratic process, represent the thinking of himself and his colleagues. If so, the member has been truly represented in policy-making; if not, the member may want to consider a different representation in future meetings. In any event, the entire report of the House of Delegates is here for perusal. May it shed light on the activities of the Association for those not fortunate enough to attend the annual session.